

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 103228

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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S E C R E T STATE 103228

EXDIS - MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL REPEAT AMMAN 2302 ACTION SECSTATE JIDDA APRIL 28, 1976

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2302

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: FOR MASS JO SA US UR

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE TALK WITH KING

REF: AMMAN 2301

1. HAD LONG TALK WITH KING,CROWN PRINCE, AND RIFAI THIS EVENING AT THEIR REQUEST. CROWN PRINCE REPORTED ON HIS TALKS WITH SAUDIS (ENCOURAGING BUT NOT DEFINITIVE) AND MENTIONED THAT HE HAD SEEN AMBASSADOR PORTER.

2. SAUDIS APPARENTLY MADE MUCH OF MISSILE DEAL, SEEMED GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT KING GOING TO SOVIETS, AND ACCEPTED HASSAN'S REASSURANCES THAT JORDAN STILL INTERESTED IN DEAL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 103228

3. HASSAN SAID HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO SEE FAHD AGAIN TOMORROW. FAHD SEEMED FAVORABLE IN ALL RESPECTS AND HASSAN HAS IDEA THAT REGIONAL AIR DEFENSE CONCEPT OF SOME SORT MAY HELP SAUDIS COME ALONG.

4. KING FIRM ABOUT NEED FOR FULL SYSTEM WITH ALL OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT AND HIS FEELING AFTER OUR DEADLINE RUNS OUT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE LEFT BUT TO GO TO SOVIETS BUT CLEARLY NOT VERY HAPPY WITH THIS OPTION.

5. I EXPLORED WITH RIFAI POSSIBILITY OF GETTING MORE TIME ON DOD CONTRACTS AS A WAY TO PERMIT MORE TIME FOR EXPLORATION WITH SAUDIS. HE SEEMED FAVORABLE SINCE JORDANIAN VIEW APPEARS TO BE THAT OUR DEADLINE IS CONTROLLING FACTOR.

6. REFTTEL CONTAINS DETAILED REPORT ON OUR CONVERSATION AND SUGGESTION ON ONE POSSIBLE ASPECT OF REGIONAL AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM IDEA.

7. TOLD KING I WOULD OF COURSE REPORT FULL CONVERSATION AND SEEK WASHINGTON REACTION IN VIEW OF GROWING NERVOUSNESS HERE OVER DEADLINE.

8. JORDANIANS CONSIDER HASSANS VISIT AS BASICALLY POSITIVE BUT ARE VERY CONFUSED ABOUT WHERE THIS LEAVES THEM.

9'. LAUGH OF THE EVENING FOR EVERYONE WAS SAUDIS STATEMENT TO HASSAN THAT THEY WOULD PAY ALL COSTS EXCEPT FOR FACT AMERICANS WERE INSISTING THAT US TOO MUST TAKE ON A SHARE. PICKERING

UNQUOTE. SISCO

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